

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-21, 23, 25, 26, and 30 have been amended. Claims 3, 5, 22, and 24 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-21, 23, and 25-34 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 26, and 30 are independent.

In the Office Action of June 25, 2010, claims 2 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, and 18-20 were objected to because of various informalities. Claims 1-4 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0040187 to Alam et al. ("Alam") in view of Shiina et al., "Strain Imaging Using Combined RF and Envelope Autocorrelation" ("Shiina I"). Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam in view of Shiina I, and Shiina et al., "Tissue Elasticity Reconstruction Based on 3-Dimensional Finite-Element Model", ("Shiina II"). The cancellation of claims 3, 5, 22, and 24 has rendered some of these grounds of rejection moot. Regarding the remaining claims, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's indication that claims 5-19 and 24-32 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted with appreciation.

Claims 2 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Regarding this rejection, the Office Action indicates that these claims recite the phrase "such as" which renders them indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation following the phrase are part of the claimed limitation.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 2 and 21, in part, to eliminate the phrase "such as". Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, and 18-20 were objected to because of various informalities. Regarding this objection, the Office Action cites various instances of language containing grammatical errors.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended these claims to incorporate all of the suggested changes made in the Office Action. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claims 3 and 5. This constitutes presentation of claim 5 in independent form. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 1. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter previously recited in the original claim 1. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claims 22 and 24. This constitutes presentation of claim 24 in independent form. Claims 26 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in original claim 20. As discussed in the Office Action, such amendments would place these claims in condition for allowance.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 26, and 30 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-19, 21, 23, 25, 27-29, and 31-34 depend from either of independent claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 26, and 30. Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 389.44708X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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